

# AUGUSTA HISTORICAL BULLETIN

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Number 1

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# AUGUSTA HISTORICAL BULLETIN

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OLD HOMES OF AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA

“Willow Grove” ..... Gladys B. Clem

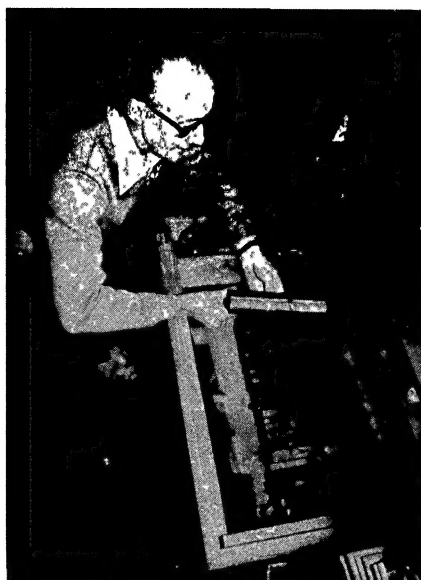
THE MISSING FIRE ALARM

IN MEMORIAM

A purpose of the Augusta County Historical Society is to publish *Augusta Historical Bulletin* to be sent without charge to all members. Single issues are available at \$3.00 per copy.

The membership of the society is composed of annual and life members who pay the following dues:

Annual (individual) .....	\$7.00
Annual (family) .....	\$10.00
Annual (sustaining) .....	\$25.00
Life Membership .....	\$125.00
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Mr. Rosen and one chest of antique planes.  
(Courtesy of Irvin Rosen)



Using a draw plane.  
(Courtesy of Irvin Rosen)

## ANTIQUE TOOLS

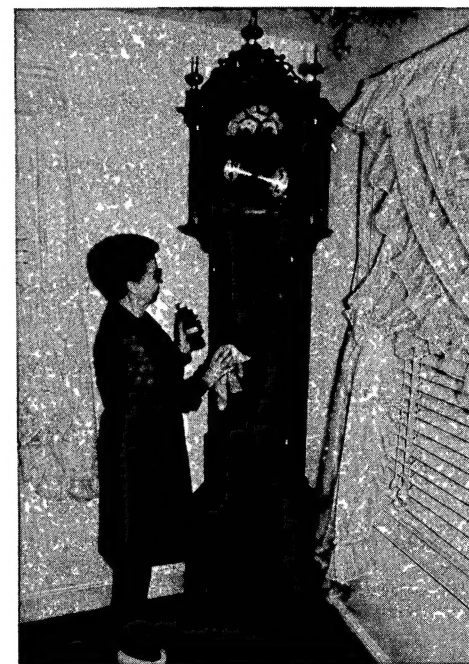
Mr. Irvin Rosen of McKinley, Augusta County, Virginia, presented an informative and delightful program to the Augusta County Historical Society at the Fall Meeting in November, 1975. Given without any manuscript, he demonstrated examples of the tools he has collected.

He is a master craftsman in the art of cabinet making. To see his collection of hundreds of old tools is a revelation of the past and the ingenuity of our forebears.

Most of the tools he exhibited were those belonging to his great-grandfather, David Berry, a cabinet maker in Augusta County in the 19th century.

Mr. Rosen is also an expert clockmaker. He maintains the cannon-ball clock at Monticello.

The photographs shown here give only a partial view of the vast collection of tools owned and collected by Mr. Rosen.



Mrs. Rosen and a grandfather clock of Mr. Rosen's craftsmanship.  
(Courtesy of Irvin Rosen)



# A BRITISH OFFICER'S ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF POINT PLEASANT

By Elizabeth Moody

A British army officer named J. F. D. Smyth, who participated "by accident" in the famous battle against the Indians at Point Pleasant in 1774, wrote an eyewitness account of it that differs in some points from records in other histories which I have consulted — i.e. some five or six in the Staunton Library. Smyth claims to have had a rather important role in the battle but I have never found his name mentioned in any record but his own; this is not surprising, however, as he was with the American forces only a few days. Since his account (which I came across in a New York library) does not seem generally available, I thought it might possibly interest *Bulletin* readers.

In his book entitled "A Tour of the United States of America" (published in England in 1784)\* Smyth tells of travelling in Virginia's "back country" in the Fall of 1774, apparently because he enjoyed exploring in rugged frontier areas (and possibly with an eye out for a good land bargain). We know little of his background except that he was obviously well educated, had a keen interest in Indian culture, and had had military experience as a British officer. He seems to have been an acerbic, outspoken man and somewhat arrogant toward the American provincials. He was to prove a staunch Loyalist when the Revolution began, and was later imprisoned but escaped, and after many vicissitudes, managed to be rescued by the British. All this is included in the two volumes of his "Tour."

Smyth's narrative of his involvement in the Indian war in Augusta County begins with his arrival in Staunton three days after leaving Fredericksburg:

"Stanton [sic] is a pretty large town, considering it lies beyond the mountains, and carries on a brisk inland trade, a great share of which appears to be in the hands of two merchants named George and Samson Matthews, natives of Ireland, which almost all the inhabitants in this part of the country seem to be. Messrs. Matthews were very intelligent persons, shewed us many civilities which rendered two days that we remained in Stanton very agreeable, and greatly to

\* Reprinted by Arno Press, N.Y. (1968) as part of the series: "Eyewitness Accounts of the American Revolution."

our satisfaction they also accompanied us to the Green Briar and the Kanawah.

"Stanton is situated in that remarkably rich and fertile valley between the South mountain or Blue Ridge and the North mountain or the Great Ridge, within a few miles of the foot of the Great North Ridge."

Since Sampson Matthews acted as commissary for the Augusta County militia companies raised that summer by Colonel Charles Lewis to meet the Indian threat to the west, it was probably in connection with these duties that the Matthews brothers accompanied Smyth through the rough wilderness — but no mention is made by this writer of any supplies going along with them at this time. To Smyth's surprise, they met with inhabitants along much of the way and better accommodations than he had expected in such remote country. There were many ominous but vague rumors about the Indian wars as they proceeded.

Smyth recorded that the roads were "intolerably bad" after they passed through Calf Pasture and the Cow Pasture area and that Jackson's Mountain was the most difficult of all to get across. They reached the Greenbrier river settlement near "Howard's Creek" four days after leaving Staunton, only to find that the militia had already marched away down the Great Kanawha on orders of Gov. Dunsmore, who was also said to be marching against the Indians by way of Pittsburgh.

According to Smyth:

"Captain John Lewis, who had been lately married, being taken ill, was unable to proceed after his father [Brig. Gen. Andrew Lewis] and the troops under his command, notwithstanding his extreme desire of following them as he had a company there; but his brother Thomas [a private according to DeHass's history], the two Matthews's, and I, having crossed the river, pushed forward with all the expedition we could make to come up with them."

It took four days of very rough travelling for Smyth and party to reach the camp of Gen. Andrew Lewis and his some 1200 men. Here Smyth says he was "surprised as well as pleased to meet with two old acquaintances, viz. Major Field, [probably Col. Field of Culpeper] whose house I had been at, and by whom we had been very hospitably entertained on the Mississippi, who as well as myself had come to this place accidentally; the other was Major Lewis [actually *Colonel* Charles Lewis; Smyth has lowered every officer's rank in his account] my former fellow traveller, with whom I had parted at Charles Town, and whose habitation was in Augusta County through which we had passed."

Smyth is referring here to his former explorations in some of the southern territories where he had met Charles Lewis and accompanied him for several months, finding him a man of sterling character and expertise in frontier survival.

Smyth states that he and Charles Lewis again became "inseparable companions . . . his sentiments, inclinations and manners were more congenial to mine than any other person's in the camp." Lewis is also described as being "the life and soul of the troops" who loved and respected him.

Smyth states that since Captain John Lewis could not be present, he himself was "given the honor" of taking over the command of his company as a volunteer. He says that for two days he and Charles and Thomas Lewis reconnoitered the country for about ten miles around the camp, but saw no signs of the enemy. On the third morning (Oct. 10th) they heard gunfire near a spring about a mile from camp. It was then discovered that a large force of Indians ("nearly 900") had approached to that point in the utmost secrecy — according to this writer advancing some 75 miles in two days, crossing the Ohio on rafts and intending to surprise the Americans by a sudden onslaught. They had almost succeeded. This early morning gunfire developed into the "severe action" later known as the Battle of Point Pleasant.

According to Smyth's narrative, there was little advantage gained by either side for many hours as they fought in frontier fashion, exchanging shots from behind trees or other cover. He had been critical of the frontier fighter's lack of discipline: "a set of white savages without regularity, order or discipline" — but he admits that in this type of warfare officers were of "less service and consequence" since there appeared to be no maneuvers, turning of flanks, etc. on the field. (Later he was to devote a chapter of his book to describing, with somewhat rueful admiration, the efficiency and independence of the American backwoodsman.)

Smyth writes that he and Charles Lewis remained close together in the early part of the battle and they discovered a ravine in the rear of the enemy which seemed unguarded. They believed it might be possible to move a small detachment secretly by a circuitous route and seize the ravine, then under cover of it attack the Indians suddenly from behind. He states that the commanding officer, [Gen. Lewis] was persuaded, somewhat reluctantly, to consent to this tactic, and furnished them with a detachment.

It was as they started on the circuitous route that Charles

Lewis lost his life: ". . . advancing boldly forward he was shot by five Indians who lay there in ambush." But these five were immediately pursued and killed so that they could not give away the plan. "After leaving a corporal and some men with Major Lewis's body, I marched on with all expedition," writes Smyth, "and gained the ravine without noise or being discovered." He intimates that this attack from the rear saved the day. It caught the foe entirely by surprise and they soon began an orderly retreat. That night the Indians withdrew across the Ohio, again by rafts, some eight miles from the battle site. Several histories record this successful maneuver but list John Stuart, Isaac Shelby and George Matthews (later Gov. of Georgia) as being the officers involved in it, with no mention of Smyth, the volunteer.

Smyth was much depressed by the death of his good friend, Charles Lewis, and being convinced that the Indian threat had been thoroughly put down, he left the American camp a few days later and returned to Greenbrier. Here he says he found Captain John Lewis still quite ill and advised him to go to the Augusta Springs for a possible cure. He delivered to the Captain "most favourable and flattering letters" about his own part in the battle — "which in reality was only paying a compliment to his company, whose good behavior on the day of action had certainly been distinguished, but from the very short time I was with them could reflect little or no credit or honour on me." Smyth then made his way back to Staunton "and from thence returned to Fredericksburg."

\* \* \*

In some interesting research on the battle, seeking to check points in Smyth's account, I found no mention anywhere that Capt. John Lewis, son of Andrew, had missed the action due to illness. But even if he was not present, there were still two Captains John Lewises on hand: Capt. John Lewis, II (son of Thomas the surveyor), who was wounded but recovered to serve later in the Revolution. He was in his uncle Charles Lewis's regiment at Point Pleasant. Mention is made in Peyton's "History of Augusta County" of a Capt. John Lewis who was son of Col. William Lewis, "afterwards of Sweet Springs," who was only sixteen years old but "celebrated for his martial spirit and herculean strength" and who also fought in Col. Charles Lewis's regiment.

I found some variations in the histories on the circumstances of the death of Charles Lewis: several state he was able to get back to his tent after being wounded — where he died in the presence of his brother, Gen. Andrew Lewis.

## SCHOOL DAYS, 1910-1921

By William E. Eisenberg

In the annals of Staunton the summer of 1910 is the Summer of the Cave-In.

Early in the morning of that eventful day members of Christ Lutheran Church assembled at the C & O station to go by train to Mt. Elliot Springs. Several of my sisters and I were in the party. We anticipated the pleasures of a day's outing as we embarked on the annual picnic of our Sunday School.

Arriving at our destination we soon took possession of the grounds of the summer hotel at the foot of Elliot's Knob. Rope



*Top Row:* Eleanor Stratton, Charlene Kiracofe, Elizabeth Vunt, Frances Timberlake, Dorothy Curry, Ruth Knowles, Kathleen Lawrence, Martha Gayhart. *Second from Top:* Frank Hartman, Hattie Long, Pauline Walker, Olive Jones, Rena Day, Helen East, Clara Fix, Elizabeth Henderson, Ethel Landes, unidentified classmate. *Third from Top:* George Weston, Harry Norris, Percy Hedrick, Harold Hevener, Edward Ranson, Armistead Payne, Ralph Gough. *Fourth from Top:* Leo Roby, Robert Thomas, Annie Britt, Ruby Lee, Rachel Early, Bessie Seiple, believed to be Sylvia Spector, Cornelia Harman. *Bottom Row:* Clarence Jones, Roy Knopp, Sidney Schultz, Harold Judy, Randolph Printz, Charles Cauley, Herbert Fox, William Eisenberg, Paul Cauley.

swings were quickly hung from spreading oak limbs for youngsters to enjoy. Older and more venturesome individuals were guided by Julius J. Prufer to the top of the knob to see the view, and they made sure to be back in time for the bountiful picnic dinner. A second group ascended the knob in the afternoon, also under indefatigable Mr. Prufer's guidance. Picnic supper was served before an eastbound train returned us home at dusk.

Some members, late arrivals who came for the supper hour only, brought with them the most remarkable news that huge gaping holes had appeared in certain downtown areas of Staunton, and that a whole house had dropped out of sight. The desire to get back to town to see this phenomenon was intensified as vivid imaginations ran riot. When our train pulled into the station I detached myself from the supervising care of my sisters and put myself in the custody of Attorney and Mrs. H. F. Scheele, our neighbors. Mr. Scheele was determined to have a look at the evidence produced by the unique event of the day, so with Mrs. Scheele and me beside him, he headed forthwith to Baldwin Street. There in front of the fire house was a sizable hole in the middle of the street, which in the fading daylight appeared dark as Egypt's night. At Central Avenue the street had been roped off and police had stationed a guard there. Officer "Rosy" Sutton was on duty when we arrived at the scene.

Officer Sutton knew Mr. Scheele. He permitted him and his two companions to stoop under the restraining rope and move to the very edge of the abyss. We peered down into blackness, not knowing whether the hole was too deep to see the bottom, or whether the diminishing daylight was the real cause of our disappointing view. We did not, therefore, visit the second hole on the south side of Baldwin Street near Lewis, where a house had fallen in, nor the third hole in the Palmer yard on Lewis Street.

The cave-in brought an unanticipated problem to the town's public schools. The school building at the corner of Lewis and Baldwin, intended originally to be a primary school, and grounds adjacent to the fire house, were all too near these yawning apertures in the earth. Citizens at once questioned their continued security and safety. To put all minds at ease, decision was made not to use the property when the fall term should begin in September. Double duty was demanded of the older Beverley Street building. This meant morning and afternoon classes for the primary grades. As a beginner in the first grade, it was my lot to be placed in the afternoon class.

Miss Alvernon Maxwell was my teacher. Miss Annie Fallon, as principal, saw to it that the letter of the law of school regulations was observed under her keen surveillance.

It was customary for boys and girls in their respective playgrounds to line up two and two on entering the building, and the same custom prevailed when they departed from their classrooms.

One afternoon as school was about to begin I sought to lead the line of boys of my class. Claude Lushbaugh, a classmate, had the same idea, though he did not wish to march with me, nor I with him. A scuffle ensued. Just then Miss Annie appeared.

She whisked us to attention, and asked, "Who is your teacher?"

"Miss Maxwell."

"Tell Miss Maxwell to give each of you a good thrashing."

Needless to say, Claude and I obeyed the inner instinct of self-preservation rather than Miss Annie's command. I was petrified, therefore, when she came into our room before the three o'clock hour for dismissal. Her only reason for doing so, I was firmly convinced, was to check on Claude and me. As it turned out, she simply spoke a few words to Miss Maxwell and departed, and our teacher dismissed class in her usual cheery way. Miss Annie's stock soared high from that moment on in my estimation.

I continued as a pupil in Miss Maxwell's afternoon class, and had her for my teacher for three terms, 1-A, 1-B, and 2-A. In 2-B, I was in the class of Miss Annie Mills.

Miss Helen Walter taught me in 3-A grade. She is etched deeply in my memory, because she administered to me the only licking I received during my public school years. She had to leave the classroom for a few minutes and had put us on our honor to remain quiet. Noise was reigning, however, at the moment of her return. She asked every boy whether he was guilty or not, and she proceeded methodically to apply the ruler to the hand of each self-incriminating culprit. Somehow, the girls of the class never were suspected of making noise!

This was the fall of 1912, another memorable time in Staunton annals. When the presidential election took place in November, the keenest political interest in its outcome was evidenced in young and old alike. And when Staunton-born Woodrow Wilson was known to be the winner, exultant rejoicing overflowed, spilling into the school playground. Boys lined up in single file, one behind another, and with right hand resting on the shoulder of the next in front, snakedanced all over the place, shouting at

the top of their lungs the well known Gilbert and Sullivan tune, in America sung to the words, "Hail, hail, the gang's all here," but on this special occasion to the following:

"Hail, hail Taft's in jail,  
Wilson is elected, just as I expected;  
Hail, hail, Taft's in jail,  
Wilson is elected now."

Mrs. E. H. Surber was teacher of the 3-B class. She also intructed in singing. A class picture, taken in the spring of 1913, has been preserved in family archives, and it portrays a group of forty-two pupils, twenty-three girls and nineteen boys. The girls were: Annie Britt, Dorothy Curry, Rena Day, Rachel Early, Helen East, Clara Fix, Martha Gayhart, Cornelia Harman, Elizabeth Henderson, Olive Jones, Charlene Kiracofe, Ruth Knowles, Ethel Landes, Kathleen Lawrence, Ruby Lee, Hattie Long, Bessie Seiple, Eleanor Stratton, Frances Timberlake, Elizabeth Vint, Pauline Walker, and two whose faces have not been identified. The boys were: Charles Cauley, Paul Cauley, William Eisenberg, Herbert Fox, Ralph Gough, Frank Hartman, Percy Hedrick, Harold Hevener, Clarence Jones, Harold Judy, Roy Knopp, Harry Norris, Armistead Payne, Randolph Printz, Edward Ranson, Leo Roby, Sidney Schultz, Robert Thomas and George Weston.

Photographer Dow, 36-38 North Augusta Street, whose slogan was "Let Dow Do It," shot the picture. Dow likewise ran a moving picture parlor that advertised "Three Reels for 5 Cents."

In 4-A grade Miss Margaret Atkinson was the teacher, while in 4-B we were taught by Miss Sue Martin. One day Miss Sue told us a tale about the struggle for Texan independence. Someone in her family background, I seem to recall, had had a hand in that fight. The story had to do with the surrender of the Alamo. Mexican General Santa Anna lined up the last ditch defenders and let each man draw a bean from a sack supposed to contain both white and black beans. If he drew out a white bean, his life was spared; if he drew a black bean, he was marked for death. Whether this was history or embroidery, I leave it to your own conclusion, since the handful of survivors seems to have drawn only black beans.

Miss Mary Stoddard and Miss Eleanor White were my teachers, respectively, in 5-A and 5-B grades. Miss White, one of the early promoters of Boy Scouting in Staunton, was popular with her pupils and impressed them greatly with her knowledge of given names. Once she went from pupil to pupil telling each



whether his or her name was of Latin, Anglo-Saxon, Welsh, Irish, Scotch, French or Germanic origin, among other backgrounds.

In the 5th grade benchwork, or carpentering, was taught to boys by Mrs. Julia Sublett, while girls received instruction in cooking from Miss Hattie Trout. Similar classes continued throughout the 6th and 7th grades.

The 6-A grade under Miss Kate Fifer was conducted at the Beverley Street school, as had been all preceding grades. By the time we entered 6-B grade the Baldwin Street school had been declared safe for use, and it had been taken over by the high school. Uncrowded conditions permitted our 6-B grade to be shifted to that building. Miss Lizzie Goode, an unreconstructed Rebel if ever, stimulated and directed our mental pursuits. Her Confederate stories were delightfully revealing of her wholehearted sympathy for that cause. She taught us to sing "The Bonnie Blue Flag" as though we had lived during THE War itself.

We were returned to Beverley Street school for our 7th grade classes. Bespectacled and mustachioed C. Adair Harrell, fresh out of Randolph-Macon College, was our homeroom teacher in both A and B grades. Dapper, efficient, respected, he served as principal of the grammar grades; then, when the country became involved in World War I, he was in the armed forces for a short time, after which he returned to Staunton to become principal of the high school. In this position he succeeded Mr. E. P. Nicholson, and was succeeded in turn by Mr. L. F. Shelburne in 1920. During his first years in Staunton he and Mr. Nicholson roomed together in the dormitory of the newly completed Y.M.C.A. building.

Throughout these years J. P. Neff held the office of superintendent of schools. He, too, wore a mustache, until one day he shaved it off and looked quite self-conscious without it. He appeared among us pupils frequently in the numerous classroom visits he customarily made. He was a firm believer in memory work for youthful minds. About 1916 he published a book entitled "Quotations and Selections for the Staunton Public Schools," which he had compiled, and the memorization of this material was required of students of my generation. In compiling the volume he made use of 6th and 7th graders in copying passages for the book on uniform sheets of paper. Years after he relinquished the superintendency he published a second compilation under the title, "Gleanings from the Fields of Thought."

G. L. H. Johnson became superintendent of schools in 1920, succeeding Mr. Neff.

My four years in high school, 1917-1921, were spent in Baldwin Street school. Pupils in the various classes were assigned to homerooms where their daily attendance was checked, their grades were assembled, and their monthly report cards issued by the homeroom teachers. Faculty members moved from classroom to classroom to teach their particular subjects. This frequent shifting that occurred more than fifty years ago taxes the memory to recall and makes it impossible to report, with confident and assured accuracy all the details of each year's activity. Let me report some highlights.

Classes assembled at 8:45 a.m. and began at 9:00 o'clock. Six periods of forty-five minutes each, interspersed by two fifteen-minute recesses from 10:30-10:45, and from 12:15-12:30, followed. School closed at 2:00 p.m.

Homeroom teachers my freshman year were Principal C. A. Harrell and Mrs. E. G. Olivier; in my sophomore year they were Miss Roberta Adams and Miss Nina Price; in the junior and senior years, respectively, they were Miss Margaret Eakle and Principal L. F. Shelburne. My studies, and those under whom I studied, were: English, under Miss Hortense Harrison and Mr. Shelburne; Latin, under Mrs. E. G. Olivier and Miss Margaret Eakle; French, under Miss Catherine Hamrick; History, under Miss Sallie Bell; Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry, under Miss Nina Price, Miss Emma Stoddard, and Miss Hamrick; Chemistry, under Ben H. Seekford; Civics, under Miss Kate Anthony; and Physiology and Zoology, under Miss Roberta Adams. Miss Adams was attractive and chic and wore high lace shoes. A good disciplinarian, she was demanding of her students. Boys were inclined to favor her. Two lessons from her classes that I still remember are: first, that fishing worms are members of the family of terrestrial oligochaeta; and second, that the word AMERICA, when used as a mnemonic, helps one remember elemental physiological processes, such as Assimilation, Metabolism, Excretion, Reproduction, Irritability, Contractility, and ———; at least it has helped me remember six-sevenths of them.

A student was required to take a minimum of four subjects each term, and sixteen units of work successfully completed was required for graduation.

Chapel was held, usually once a week, in the third floor auditorium from 8:45 to 9:00 a.m. A hymn, a Bible lesson, a brief prayer and announcements generally marked the order of

proceedings. An occasional outside speaker addressed the assembly, sometimes a local minister, sometimes a visitor from afar. Sometimes on days when no assembly was scheduled, a more conscientious teacher would use the fifteen-minute period to hold chapel in the classroom.

Such was the case with Miss Margaret Eakle. Miss Margie had us use the time to memorize Psalms, verse by verse. As each verse was learned, it was recited individually by members of the class. The 103rd and the 96th still stick in my memory. Miss Margie called together the boys of the class one day and elicited their consent to take turns in leading in prayer. All went well without untoward incident until Finley Tynes had his turn. Finley prayed long and earnestly, so eloquently in fact, that no heed was paid to the nine o'clock bell when it rang to start classes. This incident had the unmistakable earmarks of being perpetrated by deliberate design. From that day on classroom chapel was no more.

On two or three occasions during high school years school had to be discontinued for several weeks at a time on account of the flu epidemic which broke out in the fall of 1918.

The spread of Spanish influenza, as it was first called, was quite the subject of conversation when my grandfather, with a party of friends from Loudoun County, took me by train to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to attend the Grand Reunion of Confederate Veterans. Grandfather thought the trip would be an eye-opener for me and would do me more good than my continued study of Caesar's Gallic War; so with the consent of my parents and the permission of school authorities, I joined the party at Washington and embarked for the West in early October. We journeyed first to St. Louis, went on to the convention city for the reunion, and returned home via Kansas City and Chicago. Grandfather bet one of his Rebel cronies a ten dollar John B. Stetson hat that World War I would be over by Christmas — a bet that he won indeed, if not the hat.

I returned to school after ten days with many pages of Latin to be made up staring me in the face.

Mr. Harrell would call upon me sometimes to perform errands for him. On one occasion he sent me to the C & O station with a special letter that had to be sent off on a certain train. On my return to school I saw that a small crowd had gathered at the northwest corner of Augusta and Johnson streets, and my curiosity led me to investigate. A man with a tall tripod, the top of which was covered with a black cloth, occupied the center of the scene.

At first I mistook his paraphernalia for a camera, though soon I saw it was not. For the man took from his wallet a piece of white paper the size of a dollar bill, and when he had unveiled his equipment, he placed it between two rubber rollers such as were to be found on wringers of washing machines, but smaller. He turned a crank, the paper disappeared between two metal plates then reappeared again, this time as a fresh, crisp two dollar bill.

"How much am I bid for this?" he asked the onlookers as he held up the paper for them to behold. "Who will give me one dollar?"

I realized then and there that the fellow was a scoundrel and a counterfeiter operating within scarcely a hundred feet of the Augusta County Court House, but — I hate to confess — an urge to return to school promptly overpowered any sense of civic responsibility to notify police, so that I went blithely on my way and said nothing and did nothing about what I had seen.

The Phoenix and Philomathean Literary Societies were important agents in student life. All students were assigned to membership in one or the other organization. Formal parliamentary procedure governed the meetings, where readings, recitations, addresses and debates were given by those participating in the programs. Inter-society contests were held annually. Inter-scholastic contests likewise were held with neighboring schools, such as Charlottesville High, and students who excelled would be sent to the spring competition, statewide in scope, sponsored by the University of Virginia's Literary and Athletic League at the University.

For students with an inclination to write, "The Record," a magazine published seven times a session by a student staff, offered the possibility. Advertising obtained from local business firms and institutions financed the publication.

High school social life was negligible in extent and importance, if not wholly non-existent, and the state of athletics was scarcely more than embryonic. There was no social hall or gymnasium where parties or dances could be held, or where basketball could be practiced or played; and there was no athletic field for baseball or football. In fact, there was no budget or provision for athletics at all.

Thanks to the management of the Y.M.C.A., the gymnasium in its new quarters was made available for high school use. A large percentage of high school boys held membership at the Y, due partly to the novelty of its gym and swimming pool facilities, and partly to the popularity of Pete Boggs, physical director.

Boggs organized a boys' club, "The Gryphons," whose membership came entirely from the high school classes of 1918, 1919, 1920, and 1921. It was a secret society on the model of a college fraternity, and its activities inter-meshed with the regular operation of high school life. This was hardly a desirable situation, though it prevailed for a time, nonetheless.

When, for example, Bill Rodgers was about to be initiated into the order, he was required to take a silence pledge and speak to no one at school excepting teachers or officials. To make it all the more difficult for him to keep his pledge, he had to carry with him at all times a neatly wrapped cigar box containing a few pebbles to arouse the latent curiosity and inevitable questioning of friends and acquaintances.

The Y gym became the center, quite naturally under the circumstances, for basketball and volleyball, and its director likewise coached a group of twenty-five high school runners to compete against a team from Charlottesville in a relay race that began at South River Bridge, Waynesboro, and ended at Gypsy Hill Park, each runner having to cover half a mile.

High school authorities, it must be said, were seeking to develop an athletic program, though up to this time nothing had been done to provide the ways and means. When, therefore, the Y gym came along to enter this void, the opportunity it presented was welcomed readily. Arrangements were made with the Y whereby the basketball team might practice there, and home contests were played there. Taylor (Monk) Moseley coached the team. The Y required an official high school representative to be present at all practice sessions and home games. Faculty member Ben H. Seekford served in this capacity.

Girls also played basketball, although they had no suitable place to practice, only the cement-paved school playground on Lewis Street. Miss Elizabeth Butler coached them to victory, nevertheless, in half their intercollegiate contests in the 1920-21 season. The YMCA permitted them to use its gym for home games.

Baseball was played at the Fair Grounds on an improvised diamond at the south end of the racetrack that surrounded the lake. This field was not known for its smoothness, nor was much done to improve its rough condition. Fortunately, the schedule did not call for many home games. Ben H. Seekford served as coach.

Football got off to a very dubious start in the fall of 1920. Whether this was the original start of the sport at Lee High

School, I cannot say. The Athletics Editor of The Record, Brown Miller, wrote the following critique of the season for the June 1921 issue. I quote:

"We had a football team this fall! They had no regular uniform, no regular coach, no regular practices, no nothing! The team was light, even for a High School, and the greater part of those who came out knew nothing of the game. But for good, cold fighting nerve they were unsurpassed. . . . Few students saw the team play; very little credit fell to their lot; they won no games, but they gave more of themselves for the school than any other team."

Those who went out for the team practiced at the Fair Grounds. Home games were played either at the Staunton Military Academy's athletic field, or at the field belonging to the Virginia School for Deaf and Blind. After losing four games straight, the team went to Luray to play the high school team there. Again I quote from Brown Miller's account in The Record, this time from the February 1921 issue:

"In this the one game of the season where we might have had a look in, we were woefully handicapped. Koiner [D. Randolph Koiner] the only heavy linesman, was unable to go on account of the illness of his grandmother. Mohler [Francis Mohler] and the two Kivlighans [Felix and William Owen] were out, and just before leaving, Payne [Armistead Payne] our star halfback, came around to tell us that he was unable to play because of a crick in his neck! Thus we had exactly eleven men, provided Robert Fulwiler, who was going along as a spectator, would play. Although he has not played for several years, he consented to enter the game. The trip over the mountain was tiresome to say the least.

"The first half of the game looked good for us. The score stood 0-0 and the playing had been in our favor. But in the second half, Luray had down hill, and our trip began to tell on us. They made two touchdowns and kicked one goal, bringing the score to 13-0. The playing of those who filled in, namely, Robert Fulwiler, Fats [Gatewood] Legg, and Herbert Fox, without any warning or preparation, is an undying tribute to their nerve and pluck."

From such a beginning football got its start at Staunton Hi!

High school commencement programs for a number of years were three evenings in duration. Literary Society Night (abolished somewhere along the line) took care of the first evening, Class Night the second, and Graduation the third. Ceremonies were

conducted in the former Beverley Theater on East Beverley Street. Boys in the three lower years of study were called upon to usher.

The Class of 1921 was composed of twenty-four members, sixteen girls and eight boys. The girls were: Louise Brower, Margaret Brown, Martha Lou Hall, Pauline Harris, Olive Jones, Elsie Kennedy, Charlene Kiracofe, Ruthi Knowles, Elizabeth Koiner, Mary Virginia McComb, Grace Shutterlee, Virginia Spitler, Frances Timberlake, Elizabeth Vint, Mary Vint, and Elizabeth Warner.

The boys of the class were: Meredith Baugher, Paul Coffey, William Eisenberg, Robert Fulwiler, Randolph Koiner, Brown Miller, Armistead Payne, and Elwood Stephens.

## EARLY AUGUSTA COUNTY DOCTORS

By Randolph T. Shields, Jr., M.D.

Scattered references to doctors in the early days of Augusta County are found in old records. This resume is thought to be the first attempt to bring them together in one account.

This part of the Valley of Virginia was first seen by Europeans in 1710 and first entered by white men in 1716. The first permanent settlement by white people was made in 1726.<sup>1</sup>

Physicians were first mentioned in the early records in 1747 and then only in vestry allowances for professional services to the poor. In 1753 the names of Drs. Foyles (Foyle, Foil, Foile) and Flood are mentioned.<sup>2</sup>

Only meager facts are known about Doctor Robert Foyles. He is mentioned as a witness to a county land title in 1746 and the appraisement of his estate is recorded in April 1754. The Register of Augusta County people "killed, wounded or taken by the enemy" in the French and Indian War in 1754, carries the line: "Robert Foyles, his wife and 5 children, at Monogalia (Monongahela) killed."<sup>3</sup>

The other "doctor" mentioned was John Flood. He is recorded as a witness to a land title as early as 1749, and is mentioned elsewhere in court records.<sup>4</sup>

The first doctor in the area about whom we have more knowledge was William Lewis. He was the third son of John Lewis, revered as the Founder of Staunton in 1732 and Patriarch of a large and illustrious family. William was born in Ireland, November 17, 1724 and arrived in America when he was seven years old, and in the Staunton area a year later. As a good Presbyterian he studied under Rev. James Waddell DD and was then sent to study medicine in Philadelphia. He married in 1754 and returned to his Virginia home and fought as an infantry officer at the Battle of Fort Duquesne where Braddock was defeated, and wounded on July 9, 1755. He returned to his home in Augusta County and it is recorded that he "resumed the practice of his profession" which suggests that Dr. William Lewis must have practiced in Augusta County as early as 1754. He was active in the Revolution, moved to Botetourt County in 1787 and died there in 1811.<sup>5</sup> He was the direct ancestor of the Richard P. Bell family in Staunton and in this particular family line, he was the first of some twenty physicians.

About this time we find mention of a "Dr. Thomas Lloyd



living at Captain William Preston's, Augusta Court House, Virginia" who wrote a letter to "Mr. Edmond Hector, Surgeon in Birmingham, Warwickshire, England" on October 10, 1756.<sup>6</sup> Dr. Lloyd was an indentured servant, one of the "redemptioners" brought from Ireland to settle on land of Colonel James Patton, who was killed by the Indians in 1755.<sup>7 & 8</sup> Dr. Lloyd evidently continued to practice in Augusta County, and later in Montgomery County.

Dr. William Fleming was a soldier and statesman. He was born in Scotland, studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh, entered the British navy as a surgeon's mate and was captured by the Spaniards. After his release from imprisonment, he resigned from the navy, came to Virginia and fought in the Indian Wars. In 1763 he married Anne Christian the daughter of Israel Christian, settled in Staunton and practiced medicine until 1768. He then gave up the practice of medicine and settled in Botetourt (now Montgomery) County. As an infantry officer he fought in the Battle of Point Pleasant in 1774.<sup>9</sup> Chief Cornstalk commanded the Indian forces and General Andrew Lewis commanded two regiments — one under Colonel William Fleming of Botetourt and one under Colonel Charles Lewis of Augusta.<sup>10</sup> The white man won and this victory permitted the opening of Kentucky and the West. Charles Lewis was killed and William Fleming severely wounded.

In 1781, from June 4 to June 12,<sup>11</sup> while the General Assembly was meeting in Trinity Church, Staunton, William Fleming, as senior member of the Council of State, was acting governor of Virginia in the interim between Governors Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Nelson.

Every physician in this part of Virginia should know the names of Alexander Humphreys, Jesse(e) Bennett, and Ephraim McDowell and should appreciate the heritage they have given us.<sup>12</sup>

Alexander Humphreys was a Scotsman born in Ulster in the North of Ireland in 1757. He studied medicine under his mother's brother, Dr. Carlisle, and then entered the University of Edinburgh from which he graduated three years later with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He was then twenty-five years of age and emigrated to Augusta County, Virginia and lived near his brother, David Carlisle Humphreys, a veteran of the American Revolutionary Army who was living near Greenville. Dr. Humphreys practiced medicine in the county from 1783 to 1787 and moved into Staunton.

At that time the population of Staunton was about eight hundred, one fourth of whom were black slaves. There were three other doctors in town besides Dr. Humphreys: William Groves, Hugh Richie and Alexander Long. Dr. Richie had served with French troops who fought in the Revolution. "In 1788, soon after his arrival in Staunton, Dr. Humphreys petitioned the court for permission to erect an 'elaboratory' on the prison lot. Permission was granted and he accordingly built a workshop at the site of the present jail."<sup>13</sup> It was here that he trained a number of young doctors<sup>14</sup> in addition to his life as a busy doctor and a citizen in a growing pioneer town. Five of Dr. Humphreys' students attained eminence in medicine: William Wardlaw, Andrew Kean, William Henry Harrison, Samuel Brown, and Ephraim McDowell.<sup>15</sup>

William Wardlaw studied in Staunton for over two years, moved to Tennessee and gained fame in the early medical history of that state.

Andrew Kean of Goochland County, served as chief surgeon of the Eighth Regiment of Virginia Militia in the War of 1812. Many years later he was offered a chair in the medical department of the University of Virginia, but he declined this offer.

William Henry Harrison, after studying medicine under Dr. Andrew Leiper of Richmond came to Staunton to continue his studies under Dr. Humphreys. He entered the University of Pennsylvania, but upon his father's death gave up medicine, entered the Army, became a General, and the hero of the battle of Tippecanoe Creek, and later the ninth President of the United States.

Samuel Brown, a younger brother of Dr. Humphreys' wife, studied in Staunton for three years, and then at the University of Edinburgh for two years. He practiced in several locations — near Washington, in New Orleans, in Alabama, and finally in Lexington, Kentucky where he became professor of medicine in Transylvania University, the first medical school in the South and the first west of the Appalachians. He was a pioneer vaccinator — within four years of Jenner's discovery he had successfully vaccinated over five hundred persons. He wrote the first medical paper published by a Kentucky doctor, and introduced lithography into America.

Ephraim McDowell was Dr. Humphreys' most famous pupil and his accomplishments will be recorded later in this article; suffice it to say that he is known by many as the Founder of Abdominal Surgery.

Dr. Humphreys died in the forty-fifth year of his life in 1802. On behalf of the Augusta County Medical Association on the occasion of the dedication of a bronze tablet at the grave of Dr. Humphreys in Trinity Churchyard,<sup>16</sup> on April 15, 1951, Dr. Richard P. Bell closed his address with these words: "Dr. Humphreys, your successors in medicine after many years salute you; and it is our prayer that your great energy, your keen intellect and your abounding zeal to learn and to teach may so inspire us that we may become better and more useful practitioners of the art of healing."

Jesse(e) Bennett, of French-Norman descent, was born in Frankfort, Pennsylvania in 1769, and completed his medical education at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1792 he settled in the Valley of Virginia in the vicinity of Edom<sup>17</sup> where he married Elizabeth Hog(g), daughter of Major Peter Hog(g), an Edinburgh graduate, a pioneer lawyer and a veteran of the French and Indian Wars.

On January 14, 1794, Mrs. Bennett was confined in her first pregnancy and was unable to deliver her child. Dr. Alexander Humphreys of Staunton was called in consultation. The alternatives considered were craniotomy and Caesarian section. Dr. Humphreys was in favor of craniotomy and refused to attempt a Caesarean section. After Dr. Humphreys' departure, Mrs. Bennett insisted that a Caesarean section be performed. She was given a large dose of laudanum and was held by two negro women, while her sister Mrs. William Hawkins held a lamp. Her twenty-five year old husband, "with one quick sweep of the knife" quickly delivered the baby and placenta, followed by the removal of both ovaries with the remark "this shall be the last one." The wound was closed with stout linen thread.<sup>18</sup>

Thus was performed the first Caesarean section in North America and perhaps anywhere, in which the mother and child both lived. The mother lived to die a normal death and the daughter lived to the ripe old age of seventy-seven to die in 1871.

Jesse Bennett was not given his rightful place of honor in medical history until many years later as he did not report this case. "When asked why he did not report his case in some medical journal, Bennett replied that 'no doctor with any feelings of delicacy would report an operation he had done on his own wife,' and added that 'no strange doctors would believe that operation could be done in the Virginia backwoods and the mother live, and he'd be damned if he would give them a chance to call him a liar.'"<sup>19</sup>

The next summer Dr. Bennett served as an army surgeon with the forces sent to suppress the Whiskey Rebellion. Two or three years later the Bennett family moved to the Ohio River, near the mouth of the Kanawha River, not far from Point Pleasant.

Before considering Ephraim McDowell, it might be well to consider his background, and perhaps the best way to gain such information is to know something about his father, Samuel McDowell. Samuel McDowell was born in Pennsylvania of Scotch-Irish stock and at the age of two was carried to Augusta County, Virginia.<sup>20</sup> On Christmas Day 1742, Samuel's father, Ephraim's grandfather, was mortally wounded by an Indian arrow. When Samuel was eighteen he married Mary McClung, a Scotch-Irish girl. Samuel fought in the French and Indian War, practiced law, and was elected to represent the frontier in the Virginia House of Burgesses. In 1783 he was appointed as one of the first three judges ever to sit in the Mississippi Valley. At that time the Alleghenies were a natural barrier between Virginia and the West. As late as 1804 Thomas Jefferson wrote: "Whether we remain in one confederacy or form into Atlantic and Mississippi confederations, I do not believe very important to the happiness of either part."<sup>21</sup> At the end of the Wilderness Trail, Danville was laid out and for many years was the capital of Kentucky.<sup>22</sup> Spanish intrigue attempted to bribe Kentucky into seceding. Nine successive territorial conventions were held at Danville between 1784 and 1792. Samuel McDowell presided over all of them, and was able to keep Kentucky from establishing its own federal government.

Ephraim McDowell was born just south of Fairfield in what is now Rockbridge County on November 11, 1771. At the age of twelve he moved to Kentucky with his family. At the age of nineteen he returned to Staunton where he studied under Dr. Alexander Humphreys from 1790 to 1793. He went to Edinburgh, Scotland in 1793 where he studied at the University and also under Dr. John Bell. In the late summer of 1794 he returned to Staunton and it is felt that he must have been well informed about Dr. Bennett's successful Caesarean section performed earlier that year.

In January 1795 he returned to Danville, Kentucky. Before he was thirty years of age he had become an active citizen, sponsoring a library in Danville in 1800 and a few years later was one of the founders of Centre College. In 1803, he married

the eighteen year old daughter of Isaac Shelby, a famous revolutionary general and the first governor of Kentucky.

In December 1809, Ephraim McDowell encountered the sensational case which has brought him lasting fame. Dr. McDowell was thirty-eight and the "leading surgeon of the Kentucky frontier."<sup>23</sup> Two doctors were at a loss concerning the presumed prolonged pregnancy of Mrs. Jane Todd Crawford<sup>24</sup> and called for help from Dr. McDowell some sixty miles away. He diagnosed the tumor as being of the ovary and not of a pregnancy. He told her that the opinion of the most eminent surgeons in England and Scotland was that the extraction of such a tumor would be invariably fatal but "if you think you are prepared to die, I will take the lump from you if you will come to Danville," and Mrs. Crawford replied: "I will go with you."<sup>25</sup>

On Christmas Day without the benefit of anesthesia or antiseptics, the twenty-two and a half pound ovarian cyst was successfully removed and the patient made an uneventful recovery.

It is because of this case that Dr. Ephraim McDowell is known as the "Founder of Abdominal Surgery." How much was he influenced by the successful Caesarean section of Dr. Jesse Bennett performed nearly sixteen years before?

Eventually Dr. McDowell performed thirteen ovariectomies with eight recoveries.<sup>26</sup> In 1822, he performed a most successful removal of an ovarian tumor at the Hermitage, Tennessee on the wife of John Overton, Andrew Jackson's wealthy backer.

Samuel D. Gross reported that Dr. McDowell had "cut 32 times for bladder stones without a death."<sup>27</sup> One of his patients was James Knox Polk who later became the 11th President of the United States.

Dr. McDowell was given an honorary degree of medicine by the University of Maryland in 1825.<sup>28</sup>

Dr. McDowell was plagued by animosities throughout his life — space will not permit a discussion of these troubles. He retired to a plantation in his middle fifties where he lived the life of a "country gentleman," but he was occasionally called on to see surgical cases. He died in June 1830 and ironically of what was thought to be a ruptured appendix, he whose work in abdominal surgery "had paved the way for the cure of appendicitis."<sup>29</sup>

## NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Joseph A. Waddell, *Annals of Augusta County, Virginia, from 1726 to 1871* (2nd ed., 1902; reprinted, Bridgewater, Va., 1958), 2-3.
2. *Ibid.*, 44.
3. *Records of Augusta County, Virginia, 1745-1800*, Lyman Chalkley, Vol. I, 22, 62; Vol. II, 510; Vol. III.
4. *Ibid.*, Vol. I, Vol. III.
5. Frazier, Irvin: "The Genealogy of the Lewis Family."
6. Isabel M. Calder, *Colonial Captivities, Marches and Journeys*.
7. "Most of the people introduced by Patton were the class known as 'Redemptioners,' or 'indentured servants,' who stipulated time to pay the cost of their transportation. The records of the county court of Augusta show that this class of people were numerous in the county previous to the Revolutionary war. They were sold and treated as slaves for the time being. Up to the Revolution there were comparatively few African slaves in the Valley." Op. cit., 30-31.
8. "Dr. Thomas Lloyd produced sufficient proof that he is entitled to 200 acres of land for military service, under the King of Great Britain's Proclamation of 1723." Lewis Preston Summers *Annals of Southwest Virginia 1769-1800*, 730.
9. Point Pleasant, West Virginia is at the entrance of the Kanawha River into the Ohio River.  
"In 1908 Congress appropriated funds for a commemorative monument and referred to Point Pleasant as the 'first battle of the Revolution.' This designation continues to be subject to debate. . ." "The Battle of Point Pleasant, 1774," William H. B. Thomas and Howard McK. Wilson. *Virginia Cavalcade*, winter 1975 (vol. XXIV, no. 3), 100.
10. Andrew and Charles were sons of John Lewis, and brothers of Samuel, Thomas and William.
11. *A Hornbook of Virginia History*. (The Virginia State Library.)
12. Jesse(e) Bennett did not practice in Augusta County, but inasmuch as Dr. Humphreys was in consultation on Dr. Bennett's famous case, and as this case had an almost certain bearing on Dr. McDowell's famous case, we are including Dr. Bennett in this discussion.
13. Dr. Richard P. Bell, *Alexander Humphreys, M.D. 1757-1802* (April 15, 1951).
14. It has been a popular rumor or myth that Dr. Humphreys' "laboratory" was in a little red brick building just west of the Stonewall Jackson Elementary School on Beverley Street, Staunton. This is being mentioned only in order to deny that there is any real basis for this opinion.
15. A word of explanation might be in order for those who may wonder why students of medicine came to Dr. Humphreys for instruction and even from other parts of the state. The teaching of medicine through the first quarter of the nineteenth century in Virginia was entirely by apprenticeship. There were no medical schools in Virginia. Many students went to the North or to Europe for medical training — the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Edinburgh were the most popular schools for Virginians to attend.
16. Prior to 1850 "the grave-yard of the Episcopal church in Staunton was used for the interment of all persons dying in or near the city." J.

Lewis Peyton, *History of Augusta County, Virginia* (2nd ed., 1953), 105.  
Dr. Humphreys was a Presbyterian.

17. Edom is a few miles north of Harrisonburg in Rockingham County.

18. Brian Kelly, "First North American Caesarean Section Performed Near Edom," *Daily News Record*, Harrisonburg.

19. Wyndham B. Blanton, M.D., *Medicine in Virginia in the Eighteenth Century*, (Garrett and Massie, Inc., 1931).

20. Augusta County was formed in 1738 — the part of the county in which the McDowells located became a part of Rockbridge County when it was formed in 1778.

21. James Flexner, *Doctors on Horseback* (The Viking Press, N.Y., 1937).

22. Kentucky was organized as a county of Virginia in 1776, and on June 1, 1792 Kentucky was admitted to the Union as the Fifteenth State.

23. *Ibid.*

24. Jane Todd, wife of Thomas Crawford came from Rockbridge County, Va. Jane Todd Crawford and Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of Abraham Lincoln were cousins. Hugh H. Trout, M.D., "The 'Scotch-Irish' of the Valley of Virginia and Their Influence on Medical Progress in America." *Annals of Medical History* (Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., N.Y., 1938, vol. 10, no. 2).

25. *Op. cit.*

26. Fielding H. Garrison, *An Introduction to the History of Medicine* (4th ed., W. B. Saunders Co.).

27. *Op. cit.*

28. *Ibid.*

29. *Ibid.*

I am deeply indebted to Dr. Howard McK. Wilson for his invaluable help in the preparation of this article.

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# AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA., MARRIAGES

Contributed by Alice Henkel Rupe

The following marriages were performed by the Rev. Paul Henkel, and are as listed in his "Tagen Buch," now at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, Pa.

These records are written in English, and were listed by year. The names are copied exactly as he wrote them, spelled phonetically. The compiler apologizes for any possible mis-reading.

The Tagen Buch covered Rockingham, Shenandoah, Pendleton, and Augusta Counties primarily, but with an occasional different area listed, as the Lutheran minister traveled around the Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland area from 1790 thru January, 1810.

## Anno Domin 1792:

Abner GAINS & Betty MATHEWS ..... Decem the 10th

1793 — No Augusta Co. marriages performed

## Anno Dom 1794:

John DEGGY & Catrine TRORBACK ..... June the 5th

Hugh PAULS & Eliner FACKLER ..... Decem the 9th

## Anno Domi 1795:

Andrew KRIST & Barbara REIF ..... february the 3rd

Philip KISTER, widower & Betty SHENK widow ..... Febr the 10th

Jacob WAGY & Barbara NEBERGALL ..... february the 17th

Henry NEBERGALL & Nancy MCCOMES ..... on the same day

William WILSON & Betty SHARP ..... April the 9th

William OWINS & Margret PETTY ..... May the 9th

Fredrick FULS & Hanah HENGER ..... May the 9th

Christopher KING, Widower & Nancy STEPHENS ..... June the 6th

William DOLTON and Susana HERBERGER ..... August the 4th

Abraham HERBERGER & Jane VINE ..... the same day

Anthony KING & Betty HERTSOG ..... on the same day

Mathew LAM & Kesiah SORREL ..... October the 9th

Abraham LAMPERT & Barbara HEMECKER ..... December 29th

Christian LOHR and Mary ENTRESS ..... September the 25th

William STODDILL & Rebekka DINSMOR ..... September the 14th

## Anno Domi 1796:

Andrew SILLING & Anne JONES ..... January the 8th

Jeramiah RONKLE & Christina RONKLE ..... february the 25th

Peter SHEETS & Cathrine ECKLE ..... March the 3rd

James STEWART & Mary KING ..... April the 21nd

Jamiston PATTERSON & Rebekka VERNIN ..... May the 12th  
George WEIGEL Magdelene MICHAEL ..... June 14th  
Daniel RASOR & Margret MILLER ..... June the 16th (1796)  
James LOGAN & Jane CLENOUR ..... June the 23rd  
Abraham TEBO & Polly SYFERT ..... June the 26th  
John REED & Frances MILLER widow ..... July the 22nd  
John KENERLY & Cathrene HERPINE ..... August the 14th

## Anno Domi 1797:

Isaih JONES widower and Ann SILLING joined ..... January the 26th

George BAKER widower and Eva LONG spinster ..... February 7th

Joseph RUSSELL and Sarah BREDIN ..... February the 16th

John SPITLER and Magdalene ECCORD ..... March the first

Jacob CREEK & Barbara DEARY ..... March 28 1797

George CLINGER & Cath GRINER ..... April 20th

Philip WOOLWINE & Betty HARRIS ..... April the 28th

George KROHN and Molly EHLE ..... May the first

Jehu JOHNSON & Mary GRINER ..... May the 4th

William MERIT Widower & Margret OVERSHINER widow ..... July 12th

Thomas STEPHENS & Polly BREDIN, widow ..... September the 6th

James NEUTON & Polly SEILOR ..... October the 12th

## Anno Domini 1798:

John PLUNKERT & Mary HALL (or HULL) ..... March the 26th

William PAGE & Molly BURGESS ..... October the 25

No Augusta County marriages in 1799 or thereafter.

Source: The HENCKEL GENEALOGICAL BULLETIN, Vol. 3, No. 1, Whole No. 9, Spring 1972 for the list thru 1794. *Ibid.*, Vol. 3, No. 2, Whole No. 10, Fall 1972 for the list thru 1810. Compiled by Mary Harter, 3812 Flagler Ave., Key West, Fla. 33040, and copied (with her permission) for general publication by Alice Henkel Rupe, 1626 Roosevelt Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32804. The latter is a member of the Augusta County Historical Society.

NOTE: As far as the Henckel Family is aware, this material has been published only in the official organ of The Rev. Anthony Jacob Henckel Family National Association. There is no restriction on this material in part or in whole, the idea being for the greater distribution of family material.

Alice Henkel Rupe  
28 February 1975



## THE MISSING FIRE ALARM

THE STAUNTON VINDICATOR, FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 14, 1873  
PAGE 3

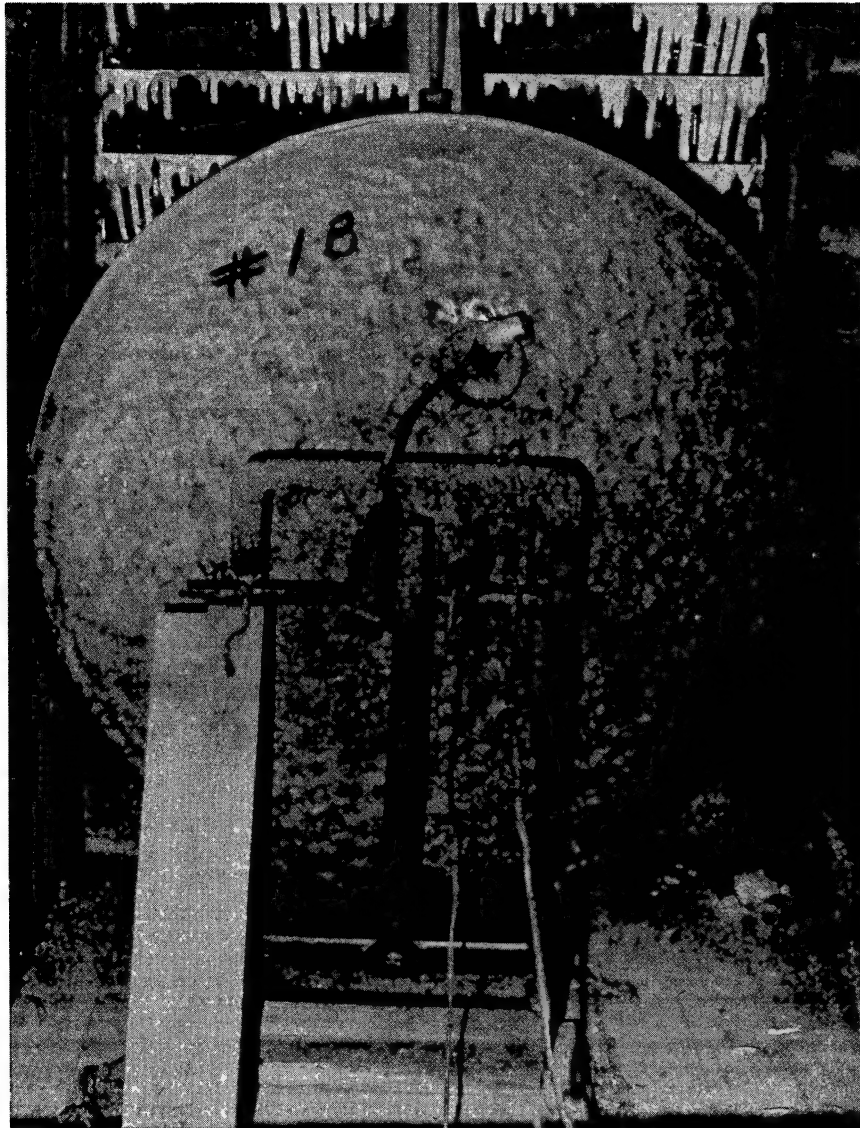
### THE SAGE OF MONTICELLO'S GONG FOR A FIRE ALARM BELL

At the City Council of Staunton, Monday night, Hon. A. H. Stuart, ex-Secretary of the Interior, who is a member, in discussing a petition for a fire alarm bell, said that in the last century, when Thomas Jefferson was building his mansion at Monticello, he sent to China by three different sea captains, so as to make sure, for a Chinese gong, to be used as a striker for his clock. Being a great man, all three were particular, and he got enough gongs to alarm the whole of Eastern Virginia. Just at that time, Judge Archibald Stuart, (father of the ex-Secretary), who was an intimate friend of Jefferson, named a son after the statesman, who in acknowledging the compliment, sent one of the gongs as a present for his little namesake. The gong was long used by Judge Stuart on his farm, which then comprised nearly all of what is now Staunton, and miles around, and it could be easily heard to the extremities of it. Mrs. Stuart after the Judge's death presented the gong to the city of Staunton for a fire alarm, and it is believed to be somewhere in the city now. A committee was appointed by the council to find it and have it replaced as a fire alarm.

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Mr. Nelson reported that the gong to be used for a fire alarm could not be found. Mr. Burke and others thought a fire bell was badly needed.



Striker of cannon-ball clock, Monticello, thought to be the same as the fire alarm in Staunton.

(Courtesy of Irvin Rosen)

Sixteenth of a Series  
of  
**OLD HOMES OF AUGUSTA COUNTY**

**"WILLOW GROVE"**  
The Home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Bear  
Churchville, Virginia

Gladys B. Clem

When George M. Bear built his home on what was then known as the Buffalo Gap Road, but more familiar today as Rt. 42, either he or his contractor marked an exterior wall with the initials PIH and the year "1869."

George Bear was the grandson of Christian Bear, Sr., the progenitor of the Bear family in the Churchville area, who according to family tradition had come from Rockingham County to Augusta in 1806.



**"Willow Grove"**  
Home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Bear  
Churchville, Virginia  
(Courtesy of William H. Bushman)

He gave the name "Willow Grove" to his new home from the many willow trees growing nearby. Here he and his wife, Jessie H. Bear, raised their four children and where their son, Robert H. Bear, still resides. The youngest son, Sidney G. Bear, lives close by. Two are deceased, the late Francis H. Bear and Mrs. Lila Bear Sprouse. Time has dealt leniently with the old homestead in the over century of its use.



Desk made by Christian Bear, Sr., sometime in early 1800's.  
(Courtesy of William H. Bushman)

The brick used in its construction was made on the place, often a procedure in the building of country homes. As a cellar or basement was always regarded as an important part of the dwelling, the clay removed from the excavation provided convenient building material.

Red clay was plentiful and as bricks were easily made, the inside walls were of solid brick construction from the foundation



Odd shaped entrance hall "Willow Grove."  
(Courtesy of William H. Bushman)

to the attic, accounting for the fourteen inch inside walls that give extremely wide thresholds to each room. There is little timber used throughout the eight room dwelling.

The wide pine flooring is original, with the heads of the hand made nails still visible on the well waxed surface. Evidence of another style of living is the line of tack holes made in the days when the heavy carpet was removed during the spring house cleaning and straw matting was laid in it's place. Sheer curtains—or none at all — replaced the heavy draperies of winter, producing a welcome summery effect during hot weather.

Double outside entrance doors, with side and overhead lights, open into a small panelled hallway half hexagon in shape as both inside doorways are cut off at an angle. The stairway leading to the second floor is placed between these two rooms.

Three large chimneys supply the fireplaces that are still enjoyed on cold winter days. Only the outsized one in the basement has not been used in recent years. It was specially built and specially used only several times a year — butchering day. Heavy logs were brought in to keep the fires burning briskly underneath the kettles of boiling lard and "pudding meat," the making of sausage and other butchering chores.

A talent for fine cabinet making has been traditional in the Bear family for generations. Even while Christian Bear, Sr. was still residing in Rockingham, he was constructing fine furniture and making caskets for those in the neighborhood. Today many specimens of his handiwork are regarded as prized heirlooms by family and neighbors alike.

Among the furnishings of Willow Grove's living room is a handsome old walnut desk of graceful proportions and skillful workmanship. Designed and made by Christian, Sr., the great grandfather of Robert H. Bear, it is one of three he left to each of his sons.

Its satin-like patina attests to both its age and care given it through the years.

Centering the front of the desk in fine inlay is an unusual design showing a chambered nautilus shell in a variety of light colored woods. So perfect is the workmanship the design appears to be a part of the desk's surface. There's also a secret drawer. And for concealing an item of especial value there's a hidden panel that would defy the most light fingered thief.

A handsome cherry sideboard with four panelled doors takes up one side of the dining room. Its triple turned posts and intricate carving speaks of the day when fine workmanship was



paramount from the time the wood was carefully selected for its particular smoothness to the day of the item's completion.

Reminiscent of the era when all young ladies were supposed to become musicians — talent or not — is the black walnut grand piano in the living room. An heirloom of Mrs. Bear's family (the Heveners), its massive legs and ornate carving was ultimate in style in the late 1800's. Above the yellowed keys in gold lettering is the well remembered trade name of "Fischer," that once famous German piano maker whose instruments were used throughout the musical world.

"Willow Grove" is a lovely old home, mindful of a past era when the hours passed unhurriedly and the days seemed to stretch timelessly into the future.

## IN MEMORIAM

Miss Pinkie Alice Brown

Mrs. Dorothy E. Jefferson Shuey

